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PLANT EXPLORATION  
AND INTRODUCTION  
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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Bessie Boston Dahlias

## Order Suggestions



**Order Early**—Order early to prevent disappointment.

**Substitution**—We do not substitute excepting by permission.

**Forwarding**—We ship at your planting time unless otherwise requested.

**Terms**—Remittance with order. We prepay transportation on all retail orders.

**Guarantee**—We guarantee our unpropagated roots are true to name and in strong growing condition when shipped. But we do not guarantee very early shipments used for propagating.

**BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIA FARM**  
**SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA**

# 1936

### Bargains

We sell collections of 12 different varieties at \$5, \$10 \$15, \$25 and upward. They represent at least fifty per cent more than the catalogue value. Our selection.

### Seeds

Mrs. George Le Boutillier, an Eastern prize-winner, was grown from our seed.

**50 seeds . . . . . \$1.50 net**

**100 seeds . . . . . 3.00 net**

## DAHLIAS FOR DECORATION



PAGES could be written on this subject. Dahlias bloom in the late summer and during the fall in varied forms and a wilderness of coloring, and for those reasons are fascinating to arrange.

Cut your blooms in the early morning when the dew besprinkles them, dip the stems in boiling water to the depth of an inch, then plunge the stems in very deep water. Leave them for an hour, then arrange. Add ice to your water during the day. Long stem flowers want to be placed in deep vases. Pompons and miniatures are charming in a bowl, but the deeper the bowl, the longer they will last. Take a single perfect dahlia and float it with its leaves in a shallow bowl or a deep plate. If the container is large, three flowers floating are quite as attractive as water lilies.

I have been growing dahlias and using them in my house for more years than I like to admit, but I will confess this is my twenty-third year as a professional grower and every year the BESSIE BOSTON introductions are better and better. That is the reason we are introducing less. It is difficult work to strive for perfection, but many letters from friendly customers are encouraging.

For several years I have done no exhibiting, except last fall, when I made a complimentary showing in the San Mateo Fiesta.

No, we had no dahlias at Christmas last year; an unprecedented frost cut them down in all their glory the first week in November.

ELIZABETH W. LYMBERY  
(Formerly Bessie Boston).



BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIAS



Formal Decorative Type

## 1936 Bessie Boston Introductions

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- ★**BEWITCHING. F.D.** A very descriptive name for this very tall growing, long-stemmed variety which was laden with immense flowers all last season. Uncommon coloring added to its charm; pale creamy yellow suffused with bright gold. When we were exhibiting, this formal decorative received the prize for the best seedling of the year and it has improved every year. One of the best flowers for cutting. **\$10.00.**
- ★**FIESTA. I.D.** Quite as gay in coloring as a Spanish celebration. Deep orange, not red. The flower is most striking wherever placed. We have grown dahlias commercially for twenty-three years, and have never seen a big flower of this coloring. The tall bushes are always filled with quantities of fine blooms. Absolutely rigid stem. Color is unvarying throughout. **\$5.00.**
- ★**POMEGRANATE. I.D.** The name is descriptive of the coloring. One of the most puzzling dahlias to describe. An unusual red, shading to bright yellow center. The reverse of the petals are shaded with lavender. Grows fairly tall, with very long, strong stems. Attracted a great deal of attention in the garden. Flower, of course, large. **\$5.00.**
- ★**ROSY MORN. I.D.** Soft, silvery pink. Outer petals are long, flat and narrow, with a pencilled edge of a deeper shade. The plants are husky, of medium height, with attractive foliage. Toward the center the petals are slightly quilled. A large flower, with good stem. **\$5.00.**
- ★**S. F. COURTESY. I. C.** (Named by request). When this dahlia was just a seedling, a prominent California grower made the remark that he hoped he would live long enough to create such a beautiful flower. A favorite shade of deep rose, and different from the ordinary rose coloring. A slight suffusion of gold runs through the petals. Bushes are exceedingly tall, and bloom abundantly. Perfectly incurved form. Flowers very large and stem rigid. **\$10.00.**
- ★**SPANISH GOLD. I.D.** One look at this dahlia and you would want it. The coloring is unique: bright yellow shading almost to orange gold at the center. The flower is suffused with these autumn tints, even the back of the petals show them. Tall growing bushes, with a very dark leaf. Immense in size. Should win a prize in any show. **\$10.00.**
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## Large Types

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Below are the classifications of the A.D.S.: Formal Decorative (FD), Informal Decorative (ID), Incurved Cactus (I.C.), Recurved and Straight Petal Cactus (S.P.C.), Semi Cactus (S.C.), Ball (B).

- ★**ADA W. MOULTON. F.D.** To see a flower of this variety is to want it. Very large flowers, almost too perfect to be true. They look as if they were carved out of pink wax. Later in the year a slight golden glow prevails, but at all times it is exceptionally beautiful. An abundant bloomer at all times. Stems long and stiff. **\$7.50.**
- ★**AIMEE HODGENS. S.C.** Bright gold, reddish sheen. Large. Straight stem. Early and free. **\$1.00.**
- ★**ALICE CECELIA. I.C.** Pure white borne on stiff stems. Early bloomer. Tall grower **\$1.00.**

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Those starred are Bessie Boston varieties.

## BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIAS

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### LARGE TYPES—Continued

- ★**ANDY'S BLACK.** I.D. Very dark maroon. Large flowers on tall bushes. Excellent in every way. **\$1.50.**
- ★**APRICOT GLOW.** I.D. Nothing like it in coloring. Apricot, shading on the outer petals to a golden apricot. An enormous flower; grows for the greater part of the season on the top of the stem, which at all times is straight and stiff. Tall growing bushes produce abundantly. An exceptionally good cut flower. Will outlast all others in a bouquet of autumn tints. **\$5.00.**
- ★**AUTUMN.** S.C. Typical of name, russet shading to golden centre. Large flower. **\$1.50.**
- BLACK JACK.** I.D. Large, velvety maroon flowers. Fine stem. Tall. **50c.**
- ★**BRIDE.** I.D. An enormous flower of pure, glistening white, and as everybody knows, white is now the rage. You cannot grow enough white flowers for sale. Bushes grow tall and are weighted with blooms all season. To see this dahlia is to love it. **\$5.00.**
- ★**CAPTIVATING.** C. Here is an A1 cactus of slightly incurved form which will be found invaluable either as a cut flower or on an exhibition table. Fine autumn coloring—bright gold, suffused with sunset pink. Very, very large; stem long and stiff. The tall growing bushes always carry a wealth of blooms. **\$5.00.**
- ★**CHARLES GARRITY.** S.C. One of the largest dahlias grown, with an absolutely stiff stem. Color, a soft, silvery lavender, without the slightest variation. Flowers have great depth, as well as size. Bushes grow very tall and branching, and need plenty of space. Leaves are coarse, but ornamental. **\$10.00.**
- CLARA CLEMENS.** B. Red and white. Everybody wants it for a cut flower. Good size, fine stem, abundant bloomer on tall bushes. **75c.**
- ★**COMANCHE.** I.D. A big deep scarlet grown on a tall bush. Excellent stem. **\$1.00.**
- ★**CYNTHIA.** I.D. Water lily form of burnt rose. Large blossoms produced freely early and late. **\$1.50.**
- ★**DELPHINE.** F.D. The color is a beige. This is heightened by a reverse of deep pink, which predominates in the center of the flower, illuminated with a greenish glow at the base of the petals. Flowers are very large, and borne on long, stiff stems. **\$5.00.**
- ★**DIANA.** I.D. Coloring, bright gold shading faint red towards centre. Exhibition size blossoms. **\$1.50.**
- ★**DOROTHY DIX.** S.C. Silvery pink flowers of immense size. Incurved form. Straight stem. Tall. **\$1.00.**
- ★**ENCHANTING.** I.D. Shell pink. Immense blossom carried on very long stiff stem. Tall bushes laden with blossoms entire season. **\$2.50.**
- ★**ESCAMILLO.** F.D. Tall growing bushes laden with enormous scarlet blooms on stems as stiff as a cane. The color at all seasons is a bright scarlet, and the flowers glisten in the sunshine with a metallic lustre. As far as we know, this is the biggest dahlia of its coloring. Blooms freely, early and late. **\$4.00.**
- ESMONDE.** B. The best yellow of the ball type. **50c.**
- ★**FAITH GARIBALDI.** F.D. Very large flower of silvery pink. Always good. **75c.**
- ★**FIREFLAME.** F.D. The brightest orange dahlia. Large flowers. **\$1.00.**

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Those starred are Bessie Boston varieties.



## SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

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### LARGE TYPES—Continued

- FRANCESCA. F.D.** Large. Old rose suffused with gold. Strong stem. **75c.**
- ★**FRASQUITA. I.D.** Pale gold, flushed deeper gold. Low growing bushes, and one of the first to bloom and the last to cease. A very large flower, produced on strong stem. **\$1.50.**
- ★**F. W. BUTLER. F.D.** Bronze and gold with copper bronze shading. Low growing bushes but long stemmed flowers. Enormous size and great depth. **\$1.50.**
- ★**GERTRUDE EDERLE. S.P.C.** Primrose yellow of long straight petals. No better cut flower. **\$1.00.**
- GOLD MEDAL. B.** Yellow, suffused red. Excellent. **50c.**
- ★**GOLDEN HORN. I.D.** Bright yellow shading amber at the centre. Crinkly petals. Early. **\$1.00.**
- ★**ISABEL McELNEY. I.D.** Unique coloring between old rose and watermelon. Low bushes with large long stemmed flowers of pinwheel formation. One of the prize-winning twelve Californians at the 1934 San Francisco show. **\$2.50.**
- ★**IVORY. I.D.** Best bloom National Dahlia Society show in London, England, in 1933. Best bloom shown by an amateur in Dahlia Society of San Francisco show at Palace Hotel in 1933. Creamy white is the color. Strong stem. Fairly tall bushes. **\$1.00.**
- JANE COWL. I.D.** Very large bloom of old gold. Excellent. **50c.**
- ★**JOY. F.D.** Clear, silvery lavender. Big flowers grow on top of stem. Many times prize winner. **\$1.50.**
- LADY FRANCES. F.D.** Large flowers with strong stems. Old rose suffused with gold. **\$1.00.**
- ★**MADRIGAL. F.D.** Flowers are very large, with strongest possible stems. Color, soft pink, almost the shade of the old fashioned La France rose. **\$2.50.**
- ★**MARIPOSA II. S.C.** Pink everywhere, otherwise, just in every way an improved Mariposa. What more can one say? **\$1.50.**
- ★**MINAMOTO'S CRIMSON. I.D.** Perpetual bloomer. Rich crimson lake flower of pinwheel formation. **\$1.50.**
- ★**MISS OLIVER. I.C.** Blend of pink and cream. Large incurved bloom on strong stem. Tall. **\$1.50.**
- ★**MRS. ALEC LOW. S.C.** Deep, unvarying lilac. Flower very large and deep. Rigid stem. Medium height. **\$3.00.**
- MRS. GEORGE LE BOUTILLIER. I.D.** An immense flower of dark velvety red. We are proud of this dahlia as it was grown from Bessie Boston seed. A prize winner for two seasons in Eastern and Mid-West shows. **\$10.00.**
- ★**MRS. H. T. HENNIG. F.D.** The "painted dahlia." White, delicately shaded with pink. Low. **\$1.50.**
- ★**MY FANCY. F.D.** Maroon, evenly tipped white. Dahlias of two distinct colors usually have a fault: the bushes contain bi-colored and solid colored flowers. This dahlia, however, is an exception. Flowers of large size, borne on good stems. One of the earliest and the last to bloom. Bushes of moderate height, always productive. **\$4.00.**

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Informal Decorative Type



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## SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

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### LARGE TYPES—Continued

- ★**NEIGE. S.C.** A big, bold white cactus with evenly rolled petals, grown on a strong stem. Neige is French for snow. Bushes grow tall and branch freely, producing at all seasons an abundance of flowers. **\$2.50.**
- O. D. BALDWIN. B.** Yellow, suffused red. Good. **50c.**
- ★**ORIENT. F.D.** Vivid scarlet—almost a lacquer red. No variation in color of blooms. Very long, stiff stems, and flowers produced freely on tall growing bushes. A vivid spot in the garden, and exceptionally colorful in a bouquet. **\$5.00.**
- ★**PHYLLIS HARPER. I.D.** Tall, branching bushes are laden with long stemmed flowers all season. Color, old rose. Ordinary flowers are ten inches in diameter. Splendid keeper. **\$2.50.**
- ★**PIPOLI. F.D.** Flowers immense and deep. Coral pink suffused with gold. **\$1.00.**
- ★**POLA. F.D.** Gold, heavily suffused with sunset pink. Large flower on canelike stem. **\$1.00.**
- ★**POMPADOUR. S.C.** Deep royal purple. Straight stems. **\$1.00.**
- ★**REGAL. I.D.** Sixteen and one-half inch flower is the record of this variety. Bronze, flushed with rose and gold. **75c.**
- SALBACH'S WHITE. F.D.** A splendid white for cutting. **50c.**
- ★**SEDUCTIVE. F.D.** Well named. Coloring is a soft old rose, with slight shadings of gold. The plant has every good quality. Grows tall and branching, and produces exceedingly long, strong-stemmed flowers of immense size, which last indefinitely when cut. **\$4.00.**
- ★**SEVILLE. I.D.** An attractive vermillion scarlet grown on a stout stem. Large flower of uncommon formation. **\$1.50.**
- ★**SIERRA SNOW. SC.** White of recurved form. Splendid for cutting. Stems are long and straight. Tall. **\$1.00.**
- ★**SNOW QUEEN. B.** Pure white. Favorite cut flower. **75c.**
- ★**SONG OF INDIA. F.D.** Twelve-inch flowers are quite common. The coloring is unusual; brilliant scarlet, shaded with gold. Contrary to the usual custom, the early flowers show more of the gold. The later flowers are just tipped. An excellent keeper, with incomparable stems, long and stiff. **\$4.00.**
- ★**STANFORD CARDINAL. F.D.** Big bloom of deep red. Ideal stems. **\$1.00.**
- ★**STARLIGHT. S.C.** Prize winner of deep gold. Immense flowers. **\$1.50.**
- ★**SUNBRIGHT. F.D.** Pure, glistening yellow; the brightest yellow we have ever grown. Enormous flowers that look you straight in the face. A very tall grower, with branching bushes. Give it plenty of space to grow and you will be rewarded with loads of flowers from the earliest season until frost. The lasting qualities of this dahlia are excellent. **\$5.00.**
- ★**TOPAZ. F.D.** Distinctive coloring of cream amber. Large flower carried aloft. **\$1.00.**
- ★**TOPSY. I.D.** Great big bloom of deep wine color. **\$1.50.**

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## BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIAS

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### LARGE TYPES—Continued

- ★**VALENTINO. F.D.** Salmon pink shading to deep cream. Very large flowers. Strong stems. Medium height. **\$1.00.**
- ★**VIOLA. F.D.** Pure, unadulterated violet is the color; rather a pale than a deep violet. Very formal. Bushes grow exceedingly tall, and robust stems are long and of lateral growth. Immense flower. **\$2.50.**
- ★**W. H. WAITE. S.C.** Famous in South Africa, Europe, Australia and New Zealand as well as in America. Immense hybrid cactus. Shell pink shading to white. Strong stem. **\$2.50.**
- YUBAN. B.** Very large flower of yellow, striped red. **50c.**



## Miniature Dahlias



- ABERDEEN.** Scarlet incurved cactus. Excellent. **\$1.00.**
- BABY ROYAL.** A Gold Medal English cactus. Salmon, shaded with gold. **50c.**
- COUNTESS OF LONSDALE.** Bronze, shaded rose. Cactus. **50c.**
- ★**DAINTY. 1935.** Soft pink, long stem, free flowering. Decorative. Fine. **\$1.00.**
- ELIZABETH PAPE.** Old rose and tan. Cactus. **35c,**
- ESTHER JEWEL.** Charming bronze decorative with pink shadings. Long stem. A1 cut flower. **\$1.00.**
- IRENE.** Peach color. Decorative. **35c.**
- LITTLE JEWEL.** Pure pink. Charming decorative. **35.**
- ★**MAH BABY.** Deep maroon. Round decorative. **\$1.00.**

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## Pompon Dahlias



- ★AIMIE. Bronze. 35c.
- ★AMBER. Amber. 50c.
- ★BANTAM. Brownish red. 50c.
- ★BILLEE. Scarlet. 75c.
- BOSSY. Excellent lavender. 50c.
- ★DANDY. Orange. 75c.
- DEE DEE. Tiny compact lavender. 50c.
- EUNICE. White, shaded lavender. 50c.
- GLOW. Old rose. 35c.
- HELEN ANITA. Lavender, white centre. 50c.
- ★JOAN. Good yellow and pink. 50c.
- ★JOE FETTE. Best white. 50c.
- JOHNNIE. Dark red. 50c.
- LITTLE DAVID. Orange. 35c.
- ★PEE WEE. Cream, shaded bronze. 50c.
- SALLY. Cream, flushed pink. 50c.
- TAKA'S PURPLE. Purple. 50c.
- THE FLAPPER. Maroon, tipped white. 50c.
- ROSE OF WILMOUTH. Shell pink. 35c.
- YELLOW GEM. Best yellow. 35c.

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Cactus Type